

REMARKS

Claims 5, 8, 9, 10, and 14 have been amended.

No Claims have been cancelled.

Claims 3, 6, 12, and 15 have been withdrawn.

New Claims 17-23 have been added

Claims 1-23 are currently pending in this application.

Claims 1, 10, and 17 are in independent format.

1. Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as being informal. Corrected formal replacement drawings are provided herewith for each drawing figure.

2. Specification

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure because the reference numeral "31" used to identify the internal threads described in Claims 6 and 13 is not discussed, nor are the features of Claim 6 and 15 (Examiner's identification of Claim 13 instead of 15 is believed to be in error) specifically described in the Detailed Description portion of the specification.

Applicant initially notes that the internal threads are described in original paragraph [0018]. Further, Applicant has amended the specification at paragraph [0031], as set forth above, to clarify the description of reference numeral "31" and the internal thread features set forth in Claims 6 and 15.

3. Restriction

The Examiner has stated that the present application contains claims directed to two patentably distinct species, identified as Species 1 illustrated in Figure 1, and

Species 2 illustrated in Figure 2. The Examiner states that these species are independent or distinct because they are mutually exclusive and capable of supporting separate patents.

The Examiner has further stated that claims 1, 2, 7, 10, 11, and 16 appear to be generic claims between the two identified species.

Applicant elects to proceed with Species 2, illustrated in Figure 2, without traverse.

Original Claims 4 and 13 are specifically directed to the embodiment of Figure 2, Species 2.

Original Claims 1, 2, 7, 10, 11, and 16 are generic.

Original Claims 3, 6, 12, and 15 are specifically directed to the embodiment of Figure 1, and hence have been withdrawn as directed towards a non-elected Species.

Original Claims 5, 8, 9, and 14 have been amended to depend from claims specifically directed to the embodiment of Figure 2, and hence are believed to be readable on elected Species 2.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 2, 7, 10, 11, and 16 are considered generic, and Claims 4, 5, 8, 9, 13, 14, and 17-23 are considered to be readable on elected Species 2.

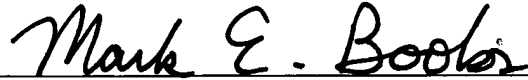
4. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, the examination of all pending claims is requested.

If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application on the next Office Action and feels that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining

issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the purpose of arranging such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark E. Books". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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